CLOSED SHELF

The People's Korea

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WE WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT S. KOREAN BROTHERS' JUST STRUGGLES

A Pyongyang citizens' rally was held on March 22 to support the S. Korean people's struggles against the U.S. imperialists and the Chang Myun clique's plot to frame evil laws. On March 26, a youth and students' rally of similar kind was also held in Pyongyang, attended by some 20,000 youth and students. Some 3,000 Korean citizens also rallied on March 27 in Tokyo to support the S. Korean people's struggles. Rallies and demonstrations of these kind are being successively held in the northern half of the Republic and in Japan.

Rally Supporting S. Koreans' Struggle Against Evil Laws Held in Pyongyang

A rally was held on the night of March 22, in Pyongyang, to support South Korean people's struggles against the Chang Myun clique's plan to formulate the "Anti-Communist Extraordinary Law" and the "Law for Regulation of Demonstrations," according to a Korean Central News Agency report of March 22 from Pyongyang. Attending the rally were representatives of political parties, social organizations and government leaders. Many workers, youth and students also took part in the rally.

At the rally, Bek Nam Un, President of the Academy of Sciences of the DPRK, bitterly denounced, in his report, the U.S. imperialists and the Chang Myun clique's traitorous attempt to formulate the two laws. He expressed enthusiastic support for the South Korean people's struggles against them.

He continued that these two laws were aimed at suppressing the South Korean people's struggles for living rights and democratic liberties and against traitorous acts of the Chang Myun clique, allied with the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

Pointing out that the Chang Myun clique has cast off even the mask of "Democracy" and is frantic about suppressing the people's struggles to cut out of the extremely acute political and economic crisis of today's South Korea, the speaker expressed ardent support for the courageous struggles of the South Korean people, including political parties, social organizations and many individuals.

The speaker appealed to all the South Korean people to rise more vigorously in the struggles against the vile laws the Chang Myun clique is attempting to frame in conspiracy with the U.S. imperialists.

Following this report, representatives from various organizations and social circles spoke. Among the social organizations represented were: trade unions, farmers' unions, the Democratic Youth League, the Lawyers' Association, the Democratic Women's Union and the Press Workers' Union. Representatives of students and men of culture were also included.

At the rally, a letter to the South Korean people was unanimously adopted. The text of the letter follows in part:

Letter to the South Korean People

Dear South Korean compatriots, brothers and sisters!

One year has already elapsed since the unforgettable day of all the Korean people, when you resolutely rose for the struggle against the Syngman Rhee's regime, for liberty, democracy and living rights.

However, in what situation does South Korea find itself today? South Korea is gripped by the most profound political and economic crisis and the people there are in the depths of misery and want. Millions of people are in a condition bordering on death on account of hardships of living.

All democratic liberties and rights you aspired after so much, have proved to be nothing but empty pledges. Every struggle of South Korean people, whether it is for independent and peaceful unification of the fatherland without any foreign interference or for the right to live, is ruthlessly suppressed by the Chang Myun clique.

As South Korean public opinion points out, they are making desperate efforts to establish in South Korea fascistic terrorism more cynical and brutal than that of the Syngman Rhee regime by formulating "the most notorious laws in history."

The South Korean people's struggles against the Chang Myun clique's attempt to formulate the laws are growing more and more fierce, as almost all political parties, social organizations, workers, farmers, jobless, teachers, men of culture and journalists are enlisted in them to form a still wider joint struggle front.

We give wholehearted support and encouragement to you, in the name of the entire people of the northern part of the Republic, highly appreciating your courageous struggles.

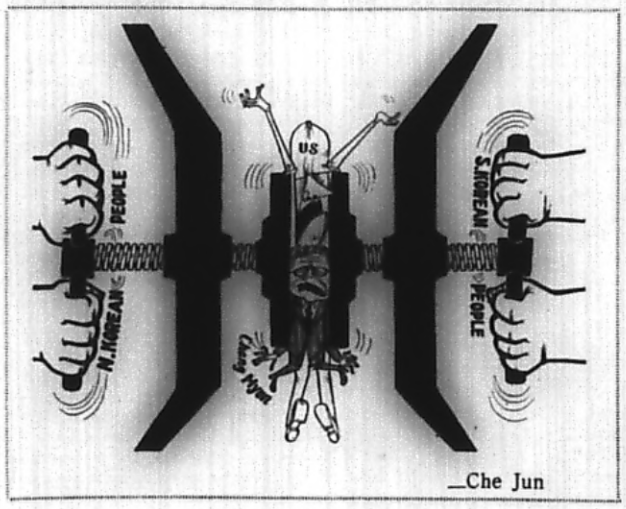
The people of the northern part of the Republic are enjoying their right to participate in the political life of the state. The northern part of the Republic is a new society where real freedom and all democratic rights are guaranteed for all the people.

Dear compatriots, brothers and sisters!

Let the present rulers realize the fact that those who seek to establish dictatorship under the guise of anti-Communism are destined to follow the same fate as Syngman Rhee!

The root cause of all the hardships and sufferings you are experiencing must be sought solely in the U.S. imperialist occupation of South Korea. Hold high the banner of the struggle against the U.S. and for national salvation and strengthen your nation-wide struggle to force Yankees to withdraw from South Korea! A bright future of happiness and prosperity is promised for us, as we have capacity enough to build a strong and free fatherland independently, if we, South and North Korean people, unite our efforts, on the basis of the mighty national economy, which we, the people of the northern part of the Republic, have already constructed.

Your just struggles for liberty, democracy and living right as well as for the peaceful unification of the country, will gain final victory since your struggles are supported by all the Korean people and the peoples of good-will the world over.



—Che Jun

Some 3,000 Korean citizens rally in Tokyo to support S. Korean people's struggles.

Korean Citizens in Japan Express Support for S. Koreans' Struggle Against Chang Myun

The central meeting of Korean citizens in Japan was held in Tokyo on the afternoon of March 27 to express support for the rapidly developing struggle of the South Korean people against U.S. imperialists and the Chang Myun clique in general and against the two evil laws in particular. Attending the meeting, held under the auspices of the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan and 14 other bodies, were some 3,000 Koreans living in Tokyo.

Masaharu Hatanaka, Board-Director of the Japan-Korea Friendship Society, Yashiro Ii, representative of the Japan Communist Party, Tokimasa Yashiro of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan, were also present as guests.

Han Duk Su, Chairman of the meeting, said as follows in speech:

"Today, the South Korean people are rising in the struggle against the Chang Myun clique.

"The Chang Myun regime which supplanted the Syngman Rhee regime is dragging South Korea into the depths of misery against the wishes of the April Uprising heroes.

"Today, the South Korean people are suffering more from political fear, economic ruin, and the fascistic suppression than they were under Syngman Rhee.

"The U.S. imperialists and the Chang Myn clique are planning to revise detrimentally 'the National Security Law' and to frame the 'Anti-Communist Extraordinary Law' and the 'Law for Regulation of Demonstrations' in order to suppress people's movements.

"There is a strong indication of a growing demand among Korean citizens in Japan for unification of Korea.

"We propose to hold a joint meeting with various groups in commemoration of the first anniversary of the April 19 Uprising of the South Korean people.

"Korean citizens in Japan desire peaceful unification of the fatherland and support heartily the struggle of the South Korean people against the U.S. imperialists."

After Han Duk Su's report, the meeting unanimously adopted a letter addressed to Premier Kim Il Sung, a letter to the South Korean people, a protest to the Chang Myun clique, and a resolution.

Letter to the South Korean People

The letter said that the Korean citizens in Japan wholeheartedly supported the struggle of the South Korean people for immediate withdrawal of the U.S. imperialists from South Korea and immediate resignation of the Chang Myun administration.

Further, it emphasized that the Korean citizens in Japan, together with their compatriots in South and North Korea, would rise in the struggle against the attempt by the Chang Myun clique to formulate repressive laws under the direction of the U.S. imperialists.

Pointing out that the miserable living conditions and sufferings of the South Korean people are caused by the forceful military occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists, the letter concluded: "The only way to get rid of this situation should be sought only in the peaceful unification of the fatherland and towards this end all the efforts of the people should be concentrated on the struggle to drive the U.S. imperialists out of South Korea immediately."

PEOPLE'S STRUGGLES CONTINUE TO SPREAD ALL OVER S. KOREA!

According to reports from S. Korea, demonstrations and rallies against evil laws are sweeping the whole of S. Korea, including major cities such as Seoul, Taegu, Pusan, Masan, Chonju, Kuangju, Taejon, Andong, Pohang, Kimchon, Kimhe and so forth. Alarmed at powerful people's struggles, the Chang Myun clique declares that they will strengthen the "National Security Law," dropping the plan to frame the "Anti-Subversive Law." But this will not change its intention to suppress the people.

Taegu Citizens Rise Again Against Chang Myun and Two Evil Laws

Some 30,000 Taegu citizens held a rally against two evil laws at Taegu Station Square and launched a big demonstration on the afternoon of March 24, attacking the Chang Myun clique for its plan to frame repressive laws, according to reports from Taegu.

The rally was sponsored by the "Kyongbuk Students' Joint Struggle Committee."

Seven representatives from universities and high schools condemned the Chang Myun clique in their speeches.

Pointing out that the Democratic Party is struggling for their survival as desperately as the Liberal Party was, they unanimously declared that "Unification of South and North is the only way out."

After the speeches, the rally adopted a resolution. At about 5:50 p.m., the participants started a demonstration. With torches in front, some 30,000 students and citizens demonstrated through the Central Street of the city, chanting, "We demand the Chang Myun regime resign!" "We are against the two evil laws!"

Meanwhile, the Chang Myun clique mobilized the largest number of motorized police since the April 19 Uprising of ast year.

The police set up barricades at the Central Street and tried to disperse the rally and the demonstration, threatening the participants with "mass arrest." However, the demonstrators successfully wound up their courageous mass demonstration at 7:00 p.m., as scheduled, backed by tens of thousands of citizens, according to reports from South Korea.

This was the third popular struggle following the rallies and demonstrations in the city on March 18 and 22, since the beginning of this year.

20,000 Seoul citizens rally against evil laws at Seoul Municipal Office Square.

Rallies Against Repressive Laws Held at Pusan and Masan

A rally against the fascistic, repressive laws was held in front of Pusan Station at 3:00 p.m. on March 23, under the sponsorship of the "Kyongnam Students' Joint Struggle Committee Against Undemocratic Evil Laws," according to reports from Pusan. Attending the rally were some 5,000 Pusan students and citizens.

Eight speakers from universities and high schools unanimously denounced the Chang Myun clique's plot to frame the evil laws. The rally unanimously adopted warning notes addressed to Chang Myun and the National Assembly.

The rally was followed by a demonstration. The participants paraded through the central part of the city, in spite of the stern police warnings. The demonstrators demanded immediate suspension of the plan to frame fascistic laws and attacked the Chang Myun clique as "murderers of democracy."

At Masan, a "Rally Against Two Evil Laws" was held at 1:00 p.m. on March 23, under the joint sponsorship of the "Haneul Group," the "3.15 Youth Group" and other political organizations, another report said.

10,000 Citizens Hold Meeting in Chonju to Promote S.-N. Unification

More than 10,000 citizens gathered in Chonju on March 25 in a meeting sponsored by the "Central Council for the National Unification," to promote South-North unification, according to a report from the city.

In the meeting, speakers, including a certain Chang, a reformist, stressed the need for independent unification of the fatherland.

They accused the Chang Myun clique of pushing plans to frame fascistic repressive laws at the instigation of the imperialists in order to crush the save-the-nation movement of South Koreans. The meeting which continued more than three hours, was a success in spite of terrorists' interference. On the same day, 3,000 other students and citizens demonstrated against the Chang Myun clique, the report said.

Taegu students, youth demonstrate against fascistic laws following the rally held on March 24.

Seoul Citizens Demonstrate Before U.S. Embassy, Demanding U.S. Forces Pull-Out

Hundreds of Seoul citizens gathered in front of the U. S. Embassy on March 22 and staged a sit-down demonstration, demanding, "U. S. forces, Get out of South Korea!," according to a Tongyang Tongshin report from Seoul.

These sitdowners were a part of the 20,000 Seoul citizens, who, earlier in the day, had held a rally to express opposition to the Chang Myun's plan to frame the repressive laws.

At night, some of the demonstrators marched to Chang Myun's private residence, shouting, "Down with the Chang Myun regime!"

These demonstrators were attacked by more than 300 armed policemen, as they approached Chang Myun's private residence within 200 metres, fighting policemen with sticks and pebbles. About 40 policemen were injured that night, according to the same report.

Campaigns Against Evil Laws Spreading All Over S. Korea

South Korean people's demonstrations against the Chang Myun clique's plan to formulate fascistic laws are spreading all over South Korea.

Following the rally at Taegu on March 23, a rally, participated in by about 4,000 citizens, was held in March 25 at Pusan.

A Tongyang Tongshin report said that some 5,000 Kuangju citizens were scheduled to hold a lecture meeting against the 'anti-Communist laws' and to stage a demonstration after the meeting.

Meanwhile, reports from South Korea said that the "Kyongbuk Province Students Joint Struggle Committee" was scheduled to stage on March 27 a province-wide demonstration, in Andong, Pohang, Kimchon and other districts.

A demonstration is also scheduled for the same day at Taejon. Reports from South Korea say that the South Korean people's struggles against the Chang Myun clique's attempt to formulate fascistic laws are gradually developing into a nation-wide movement.

Kimhe Students Hold Anti-U.S. Demonstration

Some 50 senior high school students in Kimhe county, South Kyongsang Province, staged an anti-America demonstration on March 25, demanding "McConaughy, Get out of South Korea!" a foreign cable reported from Seoul.

A high-level "ROK–U.S." talk was reportedly held on March 24, in Seoul. At the talk, the U.S. imperialists openly interfered in "internal affairs," demanding a raise in electricity and other public utility rates.

Kimhe students' anti-America demonstration is an expression of national anger at these and other U.S. interferences, the report said.

Construction of Seoul Into a Grand Modern City Proposed

Kim Sang In, Chairman of the Construction Commission of the Pyongyang City People's Committee, contributes to Minjoo Chosun a lengthy article on constructing Seoul, which has been destroyed under U.S. occupation, into a grand modern city.

After recalling that concrete measures for solving the acute housing shortage of the South Korean populace were outlined in the Recommendations on realizing economic and cultural exchange and cooperation between North and South Korea and promoting the independent development of national economy in South Korea, which were adopted at the Eighth Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly in November of last year, he writes:

Today, South Korea is short of houses for more than 1,544,000 families. In Seoul, for example, only 53 per cent of the citizens have houses even though the plank houses, straw-mat hovels and dugouts are taken into account. The water-supply and sewer system and hygienic facilities are imperfect and the streets are strewn with stinking rubbish.

In his impressions of South Korea, a Danish newspaperman wrote: An average of 3,600 people are dying of hunger, diseases and cold every year in the streets of Seoul. Many people have no houses. Large numbers of people are living in shabby huts built with broken wooden boxes and waste tin foils.

The Chang Myun puppet clique are forcibly removing the plank houses of the poor by mobilizing the puppet police without any measures for them, under the pretext that they "spoil the look of the city."

We cannot look on with folded arms at the acute housing shortage of the South Korean compatriots. We regard it a lofty national duty to relieve them, declared Kim Sang In.

Then he advances a concrete plan for constructing Seoul into a modern city.

The plan for Seoul construction puts forth it as the foremost task to rectify the colonial, old city design, the hangover from the Japanese imperialist rule, and pay the deepest concern for the health and convenience of the inhabitants, taking into consideration the favourable topographical and geographical conditions.

The solution of the housing shortage stands out as the most urgent question in the construction of Seoul. The residential quarters will be formed, basically, with five-storey houses methodically combined with tower-style flats of eight to twelve stories for the look of the city.

Day nurseries, kindergartens, stores, restaurants, children's playgrounds and other public service facilities will be set up in the residential quarters.

To cover the acute housing shortage of the Seoul citizens at the earliest date, first of all, such districts suitable for residence as the Sinchon-Yunhi, Chungryangri and Litaiwon districts will be marked off as new residential quarters and there will be built modern flats to be given preferentially to homeless people.

Along with housing construction, cultural and public welfare establishments of considerable scale should be erected as they are indispensable for a modern city. (**To be continued to next issue**)

Afro-Asian Writers Meet in Tokyo

The Emergency Meeting of Afro-Asian Writers' Bureau was held at Sankei Hall in Tokyo for three days, starting March 28. Four Korean writers in Japan attended the meeting as delegates of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at the request of the Central Committee of the Union of Korean Writers. The Japanese government, hostile to the DPRK, refused to permit the entry in Japan of the delegates from our fatherland.

Four members of the Union of Korean Writers attended the meeting as delegates of the DPRK. They were Heu Nam Ki, Nam Si U, Kim Min and Ryu Byuk.

At the March 28 plenary session, chief delegate Heu Nam Ki made his report, following a Vietnamese delegate.

On behalf of the Korean writers, Heu Nam Ki expressed his pleasure of participating in the writers' meeting. He also expressed his regret that writers in the fatherland were unable to attend the meeting owing to the unfriendly attitude of the Japanese government. Expressing deepest respects for all the Afro-Asian writers who are courageously fighting against imperialism and colonialism, and for national independence, freedom and peace, the speaker stressed that Afro-Asian peoples and writers were now playing an important role in the international arena.

The chief delegate also stressed that the Korean people's struggle was encouraging all the Afro-Asian peoples.

After mentioning the creative cultural activities of the Korean people, he explained how the imperialists are obstructing the development of national culture of Korea, illustrating the destruction of Korean culture by the Japanese imperialists in the past and by the U.S. imperialists.

DPRK Delegation to Afro-Asian Writers' Conference.

He told the conference that national culture was flowering and developing under the leadership of the Korean Workers' Party headed by Premier Kim Il Sung after the 8. 15 Liberation, explaining the heroic, creative activities of the Korean people in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war as well as the glorious flourishing of national culture and arts in the atmosphere of Socialist construction. He continued to explain the development of the Korean arts, which are known as the "Golden Arts" the world over.

On the other hand, he dwelt on the miserable cultural conditions in South Korea still occupied by the U.S. imperialists. He said that South Korea was now gripped by decadent and degenerate colonial culture and arts, and by the American way of life.

The speaker explained how strongly the South Korean people were influenced by such reactionary ideas and decadent way of life.

He added with strong hatred for the enemy that in this way the U.S. imperialists and their puppets were trying hard to deprive the South Korean people of their national morale and enthusiasm.

He said that the peaceful unification of Korea should be achieved through free South-

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Editorial

Continued International Support For The South Korean People's Struggle Is Urgently Needed

Today the Chang Myun clique, faithfully carrying out directions from the U. S. imperialists, is brutally suppressing the people under the cloak of "anti-Communism" as the Syngman Rhee regime did, instead of taking measures to save the hungry people.

It is quite natural that all the people throughout South Korea, from Seoul to Pusan, should be resolutely rising in their struggle, calling out, "U. S. aggressive forces, withdraw!" "We demand the Chang Myun regime resign!" "Chang Myun, too, is unreliable. Peaceful unification of the country is the only way out!"

It is also understandable that all the people of the northern part of the Republic as well as all the Korean citizens in foreign countries, including those in Japan, are unanimously supporting the South Korean people's just struggles. Moreover, their struggle is wholeheartedly supported by the fraternal peoples of the Socialist camp as well as by the peace-loving peoples of the world.

In the northern part of the Republic, demonstrations and meetings are successively held in various districts and at work places to support South Korean brothers' struggles. Workers and farmers are determined to produce more to save South Korea from the economic catastrophe and its people from ruination.

Meetings are also held by Korean citizens all over Japan, in Tokyo, Osaka, Aichi and Fukuoka, etc., denouncing the U.S. imperialists and the Chang Myun clique and supporting the South Korean people's struggles. In Japan, even those Korean compatriots who support the South Korean regime, are cooperating with the General Association in realizing peaceful unification of the country. They are struggling alongside the fighting South Korean people. Alarmed at the powerful struggles of the South Korean people as well as by public opinion both at home and abroad, the Chang Myun clique declares that they will strengthen the "National Security Law," dropping the plan to frame the "Anti-Subversive Extraordinary Law." But it is clear that this will not change the true character of the Chang Myun regime and its intention to resort to all possible measures to suppress the people.

The South Korean people demand democracy, the right to live and peaceful unification of the country, and it is in this sense that they are opposing all repressive laws.

There is no doubt that the South Korean people will win final victory in their just struggle, as they enjoy the support of all the peace-loving peoples of the world. Continued international support for the South Korean people is urgently needed.

Repatriation To Be Resumed In Mid-April

The Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said on March 25 in a cable to its Japanese counterpart that repatriation ships would be assigned in the middle of April, in response to a request for ship assignment from the Japanese side.

Repatriation of Korean citizens in Japan to the northern part of the DPRK, as already reported, has been suspended temporarily owing to the prevalence of influenza in Japan.

A Returnee From Japan Lives Happily at Agricultural Co-op.

Li Bong Kwan who returned from Japan in the 8th batch now lives happily at the Korea-Rumania Friendship Agricultural Cooperative in Pyungwon county, South Pyungan province.

He is one of the masters of the cooperative with more 870 jungbo of paddy and dry fields and 230 jungbo of fruit farms. Like all other co-op. members, his family lives in a cosy, modern house.

Serving the co-op. members are a club with a seating capacity of 800, and a clinic, schools, creches, kindergartens, stores and other cultural and public welfare establishments.

His four children who could not study in Japan are now all enrolled in schools.

Last year he received grain and cash more than enough to support his family for more than one year for his work of a little over a half-year. Back in the homeland, he and his wife are experiencing a bountiful life for the first time. In Japan, the worries about money and rice always weighed heavily on their minds.

On the day of income distribution last year, they were choked with tears at the thought of their miserable life in the past and over their happiness of today.

Born into a poor peasant family, Li Bong Kwan was orphaned in his childlhood and served a landlord as a hired hand for ten years.

Then he tenanted land from the landlord and did gruelling labour to eke out a living. But, robbed by the landlord and usurers, he would run out of provisions right after autumn harvest.

In the hope of breaking out of such dire straits, he left his native place in North Kyungsang province, South Korea, more than 30 years ago and crossed to Japan. But there only abject poverty and national humiliation were awaiting him.

Only under the correct policy of the Korean Workers' Party and the socialist system established in the northern part of Korea could he be freed from the appalling poverty once and for all.

The cooperative in which over 680 peasant households are united has turned 620 jungbo of paddy field into fertile land not knowing crop failure by drawing in the water of the far Chungchun and Daidong rivers with the help of the Party and the state. Most of the heavy work is done by electric power and machines. Two trucks and five tractors are working busily in the cooperative fields.

Co-op. member Li Bong Kwan who is experiencing bright day for the first time in his 50 years of life is actively taking part in work without a day's absence and volunteering for difficult work.

The pigs, chickens and rabbits raised by his family also bring a fine sum of additional income.

He said that in less than a year since his return home, he had clearly realized the superiority of the socialist system through practical life. He added with pride that this year his cooperative was planning to distribute five tons of grain and 800 won in cash to each member household.

Oh Sam Duk, a returnee from Japan, works as a tractor-driver at Jungju Machine-Tractor Station.

Koreans in Japan Cooperate for Peaceful Unification

South Korean people's struggles against the Chang Myun clique are growing intense with every passing day.

"Withdraw the U.S. imperialists from South Korea immediately!" "Unification of the fatherland is the only way to survival!" These are their common demand. Under Syngman Rhee regime, no man was permitted even to utter the word "unification."

Supporting South Korean people's anti-American struggles for national salvation, the Korean citizens in Japan are also developing active campaigns to help promote the unification of their fatherland, uniting their efforts, irrespective of ideological differences.

As is well known, almost all of the 600,000 Korean citizens in Japan are today united solidly around the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, strengthening the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan.

However, a very small segment of our fellow countrymen here are members of an organization controlled by the reactionary administration of South Korea and the U.S. imperialists. Therefore, up to now there have been almost no mutual contacts and talks between us and those pro-"ROK" elements, on account of this barrier.

But this barrier is being removed, as there is an urgent desire on both sides to struggle, first of all, for the peaceful unification of the fatherland by forcing the U.S. imperialists out of South Korea as early as possible. This is in spite of differences between their political views and tenets and ours.

The following are but a few examples illustrating such recent developments.

Korean athletes supporting the General Association and those affiliated with the Residents' Union in Tokyo published on March 23 a statement, declaring that they would cooperate with each other in developing physical culture.

Moreover, Korean men of culture of both sides in Tokyo are preparing music, dancing and theatrical performances, to commemorate the first anniversary of the April 19 Popular Uprising of last year.

Meanwhile, Korean pressmen of both sides in Japan published on March 25 a statement urging the exchange of journalists in South and North Korea. Korean businessmen in Japan are also cooperating in promoting the peaceful unification of the fatherland, irrespective of difference in their organizational affiliations.

PATRIOTIC WORK OF KOREAN CITIZENS IN JAPAN

We give democratic and national education to children of Korean citizens in Japan through use of our mother tongue and our national letters, and endeavor to remove the remnants of slavish colonial ideas and vestiges of feudalism from the minds of Korean adults, to abolish illiteracy and thereby to develop national culture. (The fourth item of the program of the General Association of the Korean Residents in Japan)

Why Do Koreans Stay In Japan After Liberation? (1)

Then, what has become of the Koreans in Japan, who numbered about 2.4 million at the end of the Pacific War? The Liberation of the fatherland in August of 1945 by the great Soviet forces not only meant liberation for our compatriots living in our fatherland but also for the Koreans in Japan, who had been forcibly brought over to Japan as slaves.

"Let us return home to construct a free, unified, independent and prosperous fatherland for ourselves!" This was unanimous desire in the minds of all the Koreans living in Japan. This desire was reflected in the fact that every day Koreans numbering 5,000–10,000 flocked to Shimonoseki Port in the days immediately following Japan's surrender.

As a result, upwards of 100,000 Koreans had to live in camps in Shimonoseki, Senzaki and Hakata where they came from all parts of Japan to get aboard ships to return to their homeland. Without adequate Government relief to them and with almost no money with them, some of the Koreans who were staying temporarily in these cities, died one after another before they were able to see their own home with their own eyes.

The Japanese Government did nothing to save them from this situation.

In a tensed atmosphere following Japan's surrender, Koreans in Japan were attacked by Japanese gangsters and hoodlums very frequently, while the Japanese Government took no action to protect the lives and property of Koreans in Japan.

In the latter part of August, 1945, alone, a Korean "labor conscript" was killed by a Japanese army officer in Kuwana, Mie Prefecture. Seventeen Korean miners were murdered in Southern Sakhalin while three Koreans were brutally killed by a Japanese policeman in Choshi, Chiba Prefecture. Similar incidents involving Koreans occurred one after another throughout Japan.

Under these circumstances, the League of Koreans in Japan was formed around progressive and patriotic Korean leaders as the only organization of Koreans in Japan that was dedicated to the defense of Koreans' national rights. Excluded from this organization were traitorous elements who led the wartime organizations of Koreans, such as the "Central Harmonious Cooperation Association" and "Central Rebirth Association."

While demanding that the Japanese Government take proper steps to protect Koreans in Japan, the League set up temporary offices in Shimonoseki and other cities in the western part of Japan to promote repatriation work and extend relief to compatriots hoping to return home.

Koreans, who were impatient of the delay in the assignment of repatriation ships by the Japanese Government, privately chartered small fishing boats to cross the straits. Many of them were attacked by pirates or shipwrecked on the way.

The greatest tragedy that occurred in those days in connection with the repatriation of Koreans was the so-called "Ukishima Maru" incident: The 4,730 ton Japanese ship, "Ukishima Maru" was sunk by a mine on August 24, 1945, off Maizuru Port. The ship left Ominato on August 21 for Pusan, with 2,838 Koreans who had been employed at a Japanese Navy installation near Ominato, and 897 ordinary Koreans aboard.

The ship sank at 5:00 p.m., and 549 of the passengers were killed in the accident. This accident, caused by negligence on the part of the Japanese Government, angered both Koreans and Japanese.

Mass repatriation of Koreans started two months following liberation, or after the U. S. forces landed on South Korea and the Japanese forces stationed there began to be repatriated.

Koreans had to return home on their own. This was in spite of the fact that the Japanese Government was obligated to return them to their home country, since they had been forcibly brought here. Thus, Korean repatriates spent a total of ¥ 37,250,000 by December of 1945 as passage fares to their homeland. This represented a tremendous sum in consideration of the currency value in those days.

Whatever the case may be, the number of Koreans who crossed the straits to their homeland during five or six months following Japan's surrender, is estimated at 1,400,000, which is broken down into 940,000 (according to statitics compiled by the Japanese Government) and an additional estimated 400,000, who are not covered by the Government statistics. The repatriation of such a large number of people is unprecedented in history.

Korean women gathered at the rally held in Tokyo to defend living rigths on Dec. 20, 1946

However, on Feb. 17 of 1946, the headquarters of the Occupation authorities under Gen. Douglas MacArthur, issued a statement ordering the Koreans in Japan to tell the Japanese Government if they desired to be returned home or not. It added that those who failed to make this report to the Japanese Government and those Koreans who exprssed their desire not to be repatriated, would lose their right to return to Korea.

According to this order, the Japanese Government made public the details for its enforcement on March 13 of the same year and the registration started on March 18. As a result of the registration, of the total 647,000, 514,060 or 79 per cent expressed their desire for repatriation. Of this number, 9,701 persons wanted to be returned to the northern half of the Republic.

Later, the headquarters of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the Japanese Government imposed on the prospective repatriates conditions that made them hesitate to return home.

According to a memorandum, dated Sept. 22, 1945, of the Occupation headquarters, "concerning the control over the export and import of gold, silver, negotiable securities and financial bonds," Koreans desiring to return home were permitted to take with them luggage weighing only 250 pounds and a sum less than ¥ 1,000 in cash. In other words, Koreans in Japan had to leave Japan, taking with them practically nothing at all, after many years of suffering and national humiliation.

Naturally, the number of Koreans in Japan desiring to return home sharply declined after the announcement of this memorandum. Another contributing factor responsible for the sharp decline was the spiralling inflation and the high cost of living in South Korea under U.S. Occupation. As a result, only 82,900 returned home between April and December of 1946.

It was more difficult for Koreans in Japan to return to the northern half of the Republic.

Ten leaders of the League of Koreans in Japan were deported to S. Korea in 1947 by U.S. occupationists.

Only 351 Koreans returned there in March and June of 1947 for the first time after liberation.

Repatriates to the southern half of the Republic were screened by prefectural governors and only those who were given certificates by them were permitted to go home. In this way, a small number of Koreans in Japan continued to trickle from Sasebo Port in Kyushu until repatriation even to South Korea was temporarily suspended in September of 1947 by order of Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

Later, no Koreans were permitted to return home without permission by the Occupation headquarters. This was done at the request of the commander of U.S. forces stationed in South Korea.

Because of these restrictive measures, only 16,990 Koreans returned to South Korea between January of 1947 and May of 1950. But even this small-scale repatriation work was completely suspended after the outbreak of the Korean War instigated by the United States and the Syngman Rhee clique.

The above will suffice to explain the reason why so many Koreans in Japan still remain in Japan today sixteen years after the liberation of Korea from the Japanese imperialists. In short, the main reason for this is the unjustifiable occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialist and their colonialist policy as well as the failure of the Japanese Government to extend facilities and conveniences to promote and facilitate the repatriation of Koreans.

Further, the U.S. imperialists, pursuing the policy of colonization and war provocation in South Korea and Japan, continuously followed the policy of suppressing and persecuting Koreans in Japan.

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Afro-Asian Writers' Conference

North general elections without any foreign interference. He emphasized that proposals of the 8th Session of the 2nd Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, which concretized the new unification program, including the enforcement of a South-North confederative system and South–North economic and cultural interchange, clarified by Premier Kim Il Sung in his report made on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the August 15 Liberation of Korea, should be realized as early as possible.

Heu appreciated highly the recent struggles of the South Korean people for independent national unification and South-North negotiation and interchange in response to the proposals of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK. Then he appealed for the support of the Afro-Asian peoples, particularly that of all the writers assembled in the Conference, for the just cause of the Korean people — peaceful unification of the country. He emphasized that the Korean writers would further strengthen their solidarity and interchange with all the Afro-Asian writers in the future.

After three days' discussions based on reports by many delegates, the Conference adopted on March 30 the Tokyo Appeal of the Afro-Asian Writers' Conference. The Appeal called for further strengthening solidarity and cooperation among Afro-Asian peoples, among writers in particular in their struggle for national independence and freedom against U.S. imperialism and colonialism. The Appeal expressed wholehearted support for the struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful unification of their fatherland.

After the Conference, our delegation attended, together with fraternal Afro-Asian friends, lecture meetings held in Tokyo, Osaka and many other places to strengthen friendship and intercourse among Afro-Asian peoples.

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